

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STOCKH 01678 201157Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 SSC-01 /072 W  
-----201350Z 024461 /43

R 201024Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0357  
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY OSLO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STOCKHOLM 1678

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PDIP, SW  
SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT OF NEW MFA SECRETARY GENERAL

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED:

1. SPECULATION OVER A SUCCESSOR TO MFA SECRETARY GENERAL  
SVERKER ASTROM ENDED ON APRIL 19 WHEN THE GOVERNMENT  
ANNOUNCED THAT LIEF LEIFLAND, DIRECTOR OF THE MFA'S  
POLITICAL DIVISION SINCE 1975, WOULD REPLACE ASTROM ON  
JUNE 1. ON THAT DATE ASTROM, NOW 62, WILL BEGIN A YEAR'S  
SABBATICAL AFTER WHICH HE WILL GO ON TO PARIS AS AMBASSADOR.

2. THE CHOICE OF LEIFLAND CAME AS SOME SURPRISE, MAINLY  
BECAUSE OF HIS AGE, 52, AND THE FACT THAT OTHER CANDIDATES  
FOR THE POSITION WERE CONSIDERABLY SENIOR TO HIM IN RANK  
AND LENGTH OF SERVICE. TWO SUCH CANDIDATES WERE  
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AMBASSADOR GUNNAR RYDING, NOW IN MOSCOW, AND STEN  
SUNDFELDT, AMBASSADOR IN HELSINKI.

3. LEIFLAND ENTERED THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE IN 1953 AFTER  
GRADUATION FROM LUND UNIVERSITY. HE HAS SERVED IN  
ATHENS, BONN, AND TWO TOURS IN WASHINGTON, THE LAST  
FROM 1970-1974. FOR THE 18-MONTH PERIOD IN 1973-74

WHEN THERE WERE AMBASSADORS IN NEITHER STOCKHOLM OR WASHINGTON, LEIFLAND SERVED AS CHARGE D'AFFAIRES. LEIFLAND'S ONLY DAUGHTER IS A FRESHMAN STUDENT AT BATES COLLEGE IN MAINE.

4. SPECULATION ON LEIFLAND'S REPLACEMENT AS DIRECTOR OF THE POLITICAL DIVISION HAS FOCUSSED ON TORSTEN ORN, NOW MINISTER-COUNSELOR AT MOSCOW, AND KAJ SUNDBERG OF THE SWEDISH UN DELEGATION IN NEW YORK. END UNCLASSIFIED

5. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE: COMMENT: WITH RESPECT TO U.S. INTERESTS IN SWEDEN, THE CHOICE OF LEIFLAND FOR THE NUMBER TWO POSITION IN THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS COULD NOT HAVE BEEN A HAPPIER ONE. HIS KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF AMERICAN GOVERNMENT MACHINERY AND THE DELICATE BALANCE WHICH EXISTS BETWEEN THE LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE BRANCHES IN THE FOREIGN POLICY FIELD IS PERHAPS KEENER THAN ANY OTHER GOS OFFICIAL. HE CONSISTENTLY EXPRESSES A BASIC SYMPATHY FOR AMERICAN POLICY CONCERNS AND HAS BEEN EXTREMELY HELPFUL TO THIS EMBASSY ON FREQUENT OCCASIONS. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.  
SMITH

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** APPOINTMENT OF NEW MFA SECRETARY GENERAL BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED  
**TAGS:** PDIP, SW, (ASTROM, SVERKER), (LEIFLAND, LIEF)  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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